

Status of the Printer Working Group Projects

July 1998

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2 The July PWG meeting was held in Monterey, CA during the 2nd week of July. A summary of the status and
3 activities of various PWG subgroups was presented, Wednesday morning, and is reported below.
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Next meeting...

5
6 August 17-21
7 Toronto, Canada
8 Toronto Marriott at Eaton Centre
9 Price: \$175CN + Meeting expenses
10 Deadline: July 24, 1998
11 For reservations call 888-440-9300. Ask for the "PWG" rate or "Lexmark"
12

PWG

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14 Minor updates to the PWG process were reviewed. PDF is the only mandatory format for PWG documents. Issues
15 were raised regarding the Intellectual Property section. Several people objected to the default actions outlined in the
16 first paragraph of that section. We do not want to say that you give up rights to IP based on discussions in the PWG.
17 We do want to encourage revealing your intent regarding IP, whether it be patented, copyright, pending or otherwise
18 in process. Don Wright has volunteered to rewrite the section on Confidentiality which may become an addendum.
19 The process document may need to be revised to indicate how the PWG will deal with "dormant" projects including
20 possible reactivating and archival, using SENSE as an example.
21

22 Following the IP update, a "last call" will go out on the reflector.
23

24 Review your business and personal (school breaks etc.) schedules prior to the next meeting. In Toronto, the first pass
25 at a PWG meeting schedule for 1999 will be discussed. The dates will actually be set at the September meeting but
26 please have your information handy in Toronto to facilitate a multi-pass process.
27

28 The Toronto schedule will be the first in a new pattern with
29

30 Monday/Tuesday - P1394
31 Tuesday evening - MIBs and MIB related (PMP, JMP, FIN)
32 Wednesday - PWG Plenary (morning), IPP (afternoon)
33 Thursday - Notification (morning), SDP (afternoon)
34 Friday - UPD (break by 3pm).
35

36 The agenda may be modified by the PWG chair as the meeting approaches, but this general pattern is expected
37 throughout the rest of the year. In particular, Tuesday evening 8/18 we anticipate the possibility of a Printer/Finisher
38 Interface BOF as a spin-off from the Finisher MIB project.
39

Printer MIB

40 Progression of our latest (albeit cob webbed) Printer MIB draft is still waiting on the Host Resources MIB. PMP
41 officers are attempting to quicken the pace, if possible. Chris Wellens will initiate a weekly call to the author of the
42 HR MIB changes and Harlod Alvestrand has vowed to assist in progressing these two MIBs.
43
44

45 An issue was regarding use of the "unavailable because broken" status bit was discussed. The intent of this bit was to
46 distinguish from "unavailable on request" which means some feature is basically "not installed" vs the "broken" bit
47 which means the feature is in the machine but not currently operational. For example, if an input drawer is jammed
48 the "broken" bit is appropriate. Some vendors are evidently shy about using this status bit due to the implications of
49 the terminology. Also, the top 25 alerts list is somewhat ambiguous because it calls for the "broken" bit when (for
50 example) a tray is missing. Again, it is up to the implementation to realize that tray is "installed" but has been pulled
51 out. This can involve some extreme heuristics on part of the management agent.

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53 Tom Hastings will write and submit an entry to the Printer MIB FAQ to address this situation.

54 **Job MIB**

55 Tom Hastings expressed interest in adding extensions for Scan and FAX. There was no time to evaluate Tom's
56 specific proposals. These will be addressed in Toronto. Tom also has a proposal for (optionally) counting blank
57 sheet sides. Currently, only sheetsides are counted. Following discussion, Tom will modify his proposal to optionally
58 count impressed sheet sides.. Blanks may be determined by subtracting impressed from the total.

59 **P1394**

60 The P1394 group is stepping back from some of their detailed specifications to reevaluate the need for extensibility
61 and how it relates to their current design. The imaging profile is still expected to be SBP2 with unordered execution
62 to accommodate bi-directional operation. There will be a simplified command set. The Config ROM device ID) is
63 pending p1212 reaffirmation. This will be the scheme for discovery of services and functions such as print, scan and
64 fax.

65 **SENSE Notification Protocol**

66 SENSE will be removed from further agenda. At some point, this project will either be reactivated or archived. A
67 separate and distinct notification effort has evolved from IPP, the Job MIB and SDP requirements.

68 **Universal Printer Driver**

69 UPD is considered to be in stage-1 of the PWG process. This means they are concentrating on requirements, charter
70 and justification. The first pass of documents relating to these areas will soon be accessible via the PWG web or ftp
71 site. Sandra Matts (Chair - HP), conducted a meeting Tuesday night. Both Microsoft and Adobe were expected to be
72 at the Monterey meeting but neither attended. This may have been due to the irregular, evening, agenda slot. Sandra's
73 presented 2 proposals, both of which are extensions of the initial, basic, GPD/UPD suggested by Microsoft. Sandra's
74 first proposal adds platform independent callbacks and is enhanced to support bi-directional communications with
75 the device. These would definitely be desirable in a standard UPD architecture. The 2nd proposal is similar to the
76 first but further adds the concept of a Printer Language Independent Marking Definition as an interim data format.
77 The group brainstormed regarding requirements and usage scenarios. See the UPD minutes for a full report.

78 **IPP - Internet Printing Protocol**

79 IPPv1 was reviewed by the IETF area director (Keith Moore) and most of Keith's comments have been addressed.
80 Two topics were unresolved going in to the Monterey meeting.

- 81 1. The need for and correct use of an IPP:// scheme in place of HTTP://
- 82 2. The definition of security methods for IPP.

83 A response was drafted to Keith's concerns regarding the IPP scheme. PWG members, in a brief session held
84 separate from the official IETF WG meeting, voted to adopt the June 30 drafts of the IPP documents as a PWG
85 standard. This will insure a fall back position for implementation should the IESG fail to ratify IPP at the Chicago
86 IETF meeting in August.

87
88 No IPPv2 topics (Notifications, SDP, Administration) were discussed.

89 An "on-site" IPP interoperability bakeoff was proposed. Peter Z. is arranging the details. Some people would still
90 rather see interoperability demonstrated across the WEB, remotely, rather than on a LAN in the lab. .

91
92 No news about the possibility of taking IPP to ECMA, a topic which had been considered in the past..

93 **Server-to-Device Protocol**

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94 Because this topic relates heavily to what might be thought of as IPPv2 activity, discussion was postponed in
95 Monterey to allow the members to focus all their energies on bringing IPPv1 to closure. This topic will be reopened
96 in Toronto.
97

98 **Notifications**

99 This topic binds the need for follow-on enhancement to IPP with both store-and-forward (e-mail) and real time
100 notifications, Job MIB traps and eventual SDP unsolicited status. Discussion of Notifications was postponed in
101 Monterey to allow the members to focus all their energies on bringing IPPv1 to closure. This topic will be reopened
102 in Toronto.
103

104 **NC Printing**

105 While not a PWG project, in itself, status was reported as follows. The group is defining how printing will work on
106 Network Computers. The first version will consist of a well defined derivative of LPR/LPD. Second, the NC print
107 standard will migrate to IPP, a Metadata definition and Server generated print jobs.

108 **IBIP**

109 While not a PWG project, status was reported as follows. IBIP is the US Postal Service strategy for printing postage
110 from the WEB. IBIP has concluded the work of 3 issues groups, the Issues Management, Certification and Customer
111 Segmentation groups. Beta tests are now taking place in predefined geography's.

112 **Finisher MIB**

113 The Finisher MIB underwent what we expect to be it's final working session in Monterey where a few minor changes
114 were made. The MIB will now be issued for last call. Thanks to Duplo, this time, for bringing their Finisher Industry
115 expertise to bear on the topic. Duplo has also proposed a BOF in Toronto to discuss the idea of using the Finisher
116 MIB, or at least a common set of data, as the basis for forming a working group to standardize the printer to finisher
117 interface for status, control and management.